

Hannibal.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I would agree with Senator Haberman and with Senator Johnson. We did pass this bill over rather quickly in, oh I guess, General File and we discussed it a little bit. I raised some objection, but we went ahead anyway. I would really support the kill motion. It isn't that it is wrong, it's a bad idea or anything like that. It's just times have changed and when we had biennial appropriations back in the sixties I think we had a little more stability. Inflation rates back then were 3 or 4 percent. You could look at interest rates on loans and different situations. It was a stable time. Yeah, even then you talked about horrendous inflation to 5 or 6 percent, but boy, would we love to be back in those days when we had some stability in our economy. We are now in such a volatile situation that times change within months. Back about four or five years ago we had a big fight over the usury limit. We upped it from 12 to 14 percent. Within two, three months after we did that, after that tremendous fight to go up 2 percent, up to 14 percent, we had interest rates up to 21 percent, completely no lid whatsoever and since then we've been fluctuating up and down and up and down on interest rates, on inflation, on the whole range of things. Our revenues go up and down. A two-year budget makes a lot of sense in a stable time, it's a better situation, people know where they're going and things are good. But we don't even have stability on an annual basis. As Senator Johnson said, eight years we've been in the Legislature, seven times we've been in special session and that's almost always been because of budgets because we've passed an annual budget that can't even hold for one year and I hate that. I just know that the agencies hate it and I know the public doesn't like it either. None of us enjoy this situation, but that is simply the volatility of our times and the alternative is...I don't know what the alternative is because there isn't any. We've got to respond to the economy. If it goes down, the budget either has to be cut or taxes have to go up. There is no other alternative. You can't wish it away. Either that or we have a 10 percent reserve and I suppose in a biennial budget we might have to talk about a reserve that big to take care of those fluctuations. I don't think we want to do that and I think we want to have the flexibility to come in and discuss on an annual basis what is right and wrong in terms of the budget, what is right and wrong in